

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:HHLANGE:RLW

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S/FW:RTLEROY (PHONE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG : IS, ENRG, NZ, US

SUBJECT:TUNA RESEARCH VESSEL PARAMOUNT

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF FUELING PROBLEM INVOLVING TUNA RESEARCH VESSEL PARAMOUNT, OWNED BY STARKIS CORP. INFORMATION FURNISHED BY EDWARD LOUGHLIN, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE OFFICE NOW ALSO SERVING WITH FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE.

2. SURVEY VESSEL PARAMOUNT IS UTILIZED ON RESEARCH PROJECT UNDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN STARKIST AND GNZ, WITH OPERATING EXPENSES TO BE SHARED EQUALLY. VESSEL USES 10,000 TO 15,000 GAL. OF DIESEL NO. 2 PER WEEK UNDER WAY, AND THUS NEEDS APPROXIMATELY 500,000 GAL THIS FUEL PER YEAR, PLUS 3,000 GAL LUBE OIL.

3. PARAMOUNT PRESENTLY DOCKED AT NEW PLYMOUTH, NZ, UNDER COMMAND CAPT. TIPICH. PARAMOUNT HAS BEEN ABLE OBTAIN ONLY 30,000 GAL FUEL, WHICH IS ONE-HALF CAPACITY AND SUFFICIENT FOR ONLY 2 TO 3 WEEKS SAILING. LOUGHLIN REQUESTS THAT YOU SEEK TO EXPLORE WITH GNZ AUTHORITIES

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POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL 30,000 GAL FUEL FOR

PARAMOUNT. PRESUMABLY, SOME INDICATION OF FUTURE OF SURVEY PROJECT WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME. LOUGHLIN AND DEPARTMENT OF COURSE AWARE OF GENERAL NZ PROBLEM WITH REGARD BUNKER SUPPLIES, AS ILLUSTRATED BY DIFFICULTY WITH

ICEBREAKERS. LOUGHLIN SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING BONDED FUEL STOCKS FOR USE BY PARAMOUNT, BUT AGREED IT LIKELY THIS ALREADY CONSIDERED. LOUGHLIN'S PRIMARY INTEREST TO INSURE ALL POSSIBILITIES BEING COVERED, BUT NOT REPEAT NOT TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF PARAMOUNT AT THIS POINT.

4. GNZ ACTION OFFICER FOR THIS PROJECT IS BRIAN CUNNINGHAM, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AURORA TERRACE, WELLINGTON. KISSINGER

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